

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB. UK. ILO

SUBJECT: TUC "DISSAPPOINTMENT" AFTER MEANY-MURRAY TALKS

REF: LONDON 2788 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY - EARLY REACTION FROM THE TUC TO THE MEANY-MURRAY
DISCUSSIONS WAS ONE OF DISAPPOINTMENT, PERHAPS EVEN
TINGED WITH DESPAIR ABOUT THE STATUS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE TUC AND THE AFL-CIO -- THE MOST POWERFUL FREE TRADE
UNION FEDERATIONS IN THE WORLD. THE TUC, WE ARE TOLD,
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STILL VERY MUCH WANTS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE LINKS WITH THE AFL-CIO. END SUMMARY.

1. A SOURCE AT TUC HEADQUARTERS SAID THAT MURRAY REPORTED TO THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MARCH 1 ON HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. HE SUMMED UP MURRAY'S REPORT OF THE MEANY-MURRAY DISCUSSIONS IN A SENTENCE: "THEY DIDN'T GET OFD FIRST BASE." BY THIS HE MEANT THAT WHILE THERE WAS MUCH TALK ABOUT THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE TWO LEADERS NEVER CAME TO GRIPS WITH THE PROBLEMS DIVIDING THE TWO MOVEMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO EAST-WEST LABOR RELATIONS AND THE ILO CRISIS. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE MEANY REITERATED HIS ORGANIZATION'S CRITICAL VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S DETENTE POLICY. MURRAY, FOR HIS PART, EXPRESSED THE TUC'S CONCERN ABOUT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE IRA WHICH COMES FROM THE U.S. -- AN ISSUE HE ALSO RAISED AGAIN WHEN HE MET AFL-CIO VICE-PRESIDENTS WARD, SIDELL AND HOUSEWRIGHT.

2. MURRAY AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE WERE DESCRIBED AS HAVING BEEN "DISAPPOINTED" ABOUT THE VISIT, ALTHOUGH JACK JONES, TUC CHAIRMAN, APPARENTLY MADE NO COMMENT. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT MURRAY CONVEYED THE IMPRESSION THAT MEANY "DIDN'T FEEL LIKE TRYING TO CONVINCE THE TUC" ABOUT THE AFL-CIO'S INTERNATIONAL POLICIES. "IT WAS," HE SAID. "AS IF WE WERE BEYOND THE PALE." WE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT MURRAY DIDN'T INITIATE A DISCUSSION ON THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES, AND OUR SOURCE RESPONDED THAT MURRAY "DID TRY VERY HARD TO GET THE ILO ISSUE DISCUSSED." THIS EFFORT, HOWEVER, WAS RATHER INDIRECT. TAKING THE FORM OF LEADS AND HINTS, OR REFERENCES TO INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS CYRIL PLANT, THE TUC'S MAN AT THE ILO (HE IS THE UK WORKER MEMBER OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY).

3. COMMENT: WHATEVER THE CAUSE, IT IS INDEED UNFORTUNATE THAT THE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES BETWEEN THE TUC AND THE AFL-CIO WERE NOT LAID ON THE TABLE. ALTHOUGH THE TUC LEADERSHIP IS WELL AWARE THAT THE AFL-CIO WILL NOT ACCEPT A WARMING UP OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP UNTIL THE TUC POLICY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHIFTS CLOSER TO THE AFL-CIO VIEWPOINT, THIS SHOULD NOT HAVE DETERRED MURRAY FROM DISCUSSING IT. THIS VISIT MARKED THE FIRST TIME HE COULD HAVE A SERIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH MEANY ALONE, WITHOUT THE DOMINANT PRESENCE OF JONES -- A FACT WHICH SOME TUC STAFF MEMBERS NOTED IN THEIR TALKS WITH US. WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT MURRAY, WHO HAS FREQUENTLY TOLD US HOW MUCH HE ADMIRES THE AFL-CIO

LEADER,MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN OVERAWED AND PERHAPS OVERWHELMED IN HIS PRESENCE -- AN EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO MUPRAY.

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